[112 cont.]

502 Ndeni (4). Coote says of those on the Reef Islands that they sail

4. Dalrymple, p. 195. Burney, p. 290.

badly against the wind, but that before the wind they sail very well. The frequent capsizing of the boats, despite the outrigger, [481] does not disconcert the occupants; swimming in the water, they right the vessel again, remove the water in large part by a swinging motion, and scoop out the rest with the water scoops. With the large sea-going boats they go far beyond sight of land, guided only by their knowledge of the points of the compass and the stars. Of special significance for sea journeys is the time of the [132] monsoon, which lasts approximately from February to April. According to Coote, the natives were able to tell the exact location of their island even from a great distance, and the same traveler [868] observed how an older boy on the ship taught a younger one the 484 names of the stars (5). There is lively traffic between the

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5. Dillon, p. 219 (monsoon = rakeys). D'Urville, p. 194. Gaimard, ibid., p. 338. Coote, pp. 151 f. Joest in Baessler, p. 395.

individual parts of the group, as well as with the neighboring Polynesian islands, the heaviest between Ndeni and the Reef Islands and between Vanikoro and Tikopia. Moreover, Ndeni and the Reef Islands have contact with Sikaiana, as does Vanikoro [304] with Ndeni and the Reef Islands. A native of Vanikoro was tattooed on Mami, an island adjacent to Ndeni, and since then he has visited almost all the Reef Islands. Through Tikopia, the Vanikorese were also familiar with the Banks Islands. A native 823 of Vanikoro was able [113] to draw a large number of the islands on a sketch which, of course, was inaccurate (1). Mixed marriages

1. Dalrymple, pp. 146 ff. Burney, pp. 290 ff. Dillon, pp. 158, 167, 268.

/157 cont./

461 For the men, the days pass in busy idleness. They spend a great deal of time in the men's house, often bored to death, sunk into a half-awake state from which they can arouse themselves only with difficulty. They can be very energetic, however, and at some accustomed activity, especially if it has the nature of a sport, develop great endurance.

481 For example, they are excellent swimmers. They swim with irregular movements, somewhat like dogs, and, strange to say, they often spread out their fingers when they push off. Perhaps it is because of their irregular, effortless movements that they have such extraordinary endurance. A boy of about eight swam under the 500-ton steamer of the Anglican Mission without

515 ado (2). Since the men so often disport themselves in the sea,

2. [Cf. also O'Ferrall, section "Sailing Canoe."]

[302] they are fairly clean, and in the case of many of the younger ones it was plainly to be seen that they adorned themselves

181 with great care and tried to look elegant. They are definitely vain, more so than the women.

They are inquisitive, alert, and not stupid, and it appears that the race, thanks to a dominant Polynesian strain, may perhaps be counted among the higher Melanesians.

762 It is said that women not infrequently commit suicide by hanging as a consequence of bad treatment by the men.

Clothing and Adornment

302 I did not anywhere see the colored plaits of the men that are mentioned by Coote (3). This style has probably died

3. [Ethn., I, p. 75.]